

**John Hall to George Washington, May 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN JOHN HALL. <sup>1</sup>**

SIR/

I make bold to address you & require your permission to leave the Virginia Regiment as likewise if you think I deserve it yr. Lr. recommendatory to his Honr. the Govr. or any other you may be pleas'd to offer that might be serviceable to me in carrying Arms to the Northward in some of the British Regiments

From the small Acquaintance I can boast you have hond. me with I have discovered that a few Apologies & a good deal of Sincerity are amongst the things you like best I offer you as little of the first as is consistent with Politeness, as much of the latter as I am capable of affording, & if a frank & open Declaration of my Intentions entitles me to yr. Esteem, perhaps you may think I deserve it—Truth & Sincerity shall flow from my Pen destitute of Adulation, destitute of unbecoming Design, destitute of ev'ry thing wch. shou'd not accompany it.

Know then Sr nothing less than the Fear of Indigence prompts my Inclination—Nothing but the hope of disappointing it to seek for other Service—I feel no Reluctance in leaving a Country I had but adopted—for she has treated her own Sons with unbecoming Severity—Nor any Regret but for leaving you & those Officers I esteem—What then but the Want of a Subsistance, the daily Decay of a scanty Fortune is oblided often to repair, can

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induce me to take this step? The Apprehensions of swelling the Number of the unfortunate which a Reduction or general Dismission may create amongst us—These are ye coercive Motives—I have all that Regard for Colo. Washington he can possibly expect, & it would be easy for him to carry me through the World was I one of the Number he'd choose to accompany him, & on whom he'd bestow the Assurance of, Bread—I only aim at such Certainty that the Malice of Fortune, or the Caprice of People we have to deal with could not affect—this is Affluence to me—& here centers all my Ambition—I aim not at Riches but Freedom—nor value 1 the one but as it helps me to the other—It renders me independent—that Share of Independence I mean consistent with a Soldier's Character—I flatter myself your Reflections will square with mine & I hope for your Approbation—I trust to the Good Nature I have often observd. in you, to apologise for the Freedom I take—I hope speedily the honour of a Line from your hand permission to wait on you—I rest in Confidence Give me Liberty to subscribe myst.

with great Regard Sr. Yr. mo obt. hble Servt JNO HALL

1 This letter, without date, was written early in 1757, and is placed here because it is so arranged in the original manuscripts.